

What is claimed:

1. A seat assembly for supporting an occupant above a floor having a load floor and a recess extending therebelow, said seat assembly comprising:
  - a seat cushion extending between a seating surface and a bottom surface;
  - 5 a riser mechanism extending between said bottom surface of said seat cushion and the floor for allowing selective movement of said seat assembly between a seating position to support the occupant above the load floor and a stowed position disposed within the recess in the floor; and
  - a panel operatively coupled to said riser mechanism for movement with said riser mechanism between said seating position, wherein said panel conceals the recess in the floor, and said stowed position, wherein said panel is disposed within the recess providing access thereto to allow said seat assembly to be stowed in recess.
2. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said riser mechanism includes
  - 15 a first link extending between an upper first end slidably coupled to said seat cushion and a lower first end pivotally coupled to the floor and a second link extending between an upper second end pivotally coupled to said seat cushion and a lower second end slidably coupled to the floor.
3. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 2 including a pivot pin pivotally coupling
  - 20 said first and second links to each other.
4. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 3 including a panel bracket coupling said panel to at least one of said first and second links such that said panel moves with said seat
  - 25 assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

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5. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 4 including a forward arm extending between one forward end pivotally coupled to said first link and an opposite forward end slidably coupled to said panel bracket for supporting said panel during movement between  
5 said seating and stowed positions.

6. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 5 including a rearward arm extending between one rearward end pivotally coupled to said second link and an opposite rearward end pivotally coupled to said panel bracket for supporting said panel during movement between  
10 said seating and stowed positions.

7. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a locking mechanism for selectively locking said seat assembly in said seating position, said locking mechanism including a lock pin fixedly secured to one of said first and second links, and a hook  
15 lockingly engagable with said pin for maintaining said seat assembly in said seating position, said hook pivotally coupled to said seat cushion for selective movement in and out of said locking engagement with said pin.

8. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 7 including a cushion bracket fixedly  
20 secured to said seat cushion, said cushion bracket including a slot formed therein for slidably receiving said lock pin therethrough during movement of said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

9. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said lock pin is fixedly secured  
25 to one of said upper first and second ends of one of said first and second links and protrudes

through said slot in said cushion bracket to define said sliding engagement between said upper end of said first link and said seat cushion.

10. A seat assembly for supporting an occupant above a floor having a load floor,  
5 a recess below the load floor and an intermediate structure extending therebetween, said seat assembly comprising:

a seat cushion extending between a seating surface and a bottom surface;

a seat back pivotally coupled to said seat cushion for movement between a support position and a forwardly stowed position overlying said seat cushion;

10 a riser mechanism extending between said bottom surface of said seat cushion and the floor for allowing selective movement of said seat assembly between a seating position to support the occupant above the floor and a stowed position disposed within the recess in the floor, said riser mechanism operatively coupled to said seat back for moving  
15 movement of said seat back between said support and forwardly stowed positions, respectively.

11. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 10 wherein said riser mechanism includes front and rear links each pivotally coupled to said seat cushion and the floor for  
20 allowing selective movement of said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

12. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein each of said front and rear links includes an upper arm pivotally coupled to said seat cushion.  
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13. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 12 wherein each of said front and rear links includes a lower arm extending perpendicularly thereto.

14. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 13 wherein each of said front and rear links includes an intermediate portion pivotally secured to the intermediate structure of the floor.

15. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 14 including a pivot pin extending between a proximal end fixedly secured to one of said front and rear links and a distal end, said pivot pin rotatably journaled to said seat cushion between said proximal and distal ends.

16. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 15 including a radial arm extending radially outwardly from said distal end of said pivot pin.

17. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 16 including a radial link extending between said seat back and said radial arm for pivoting said pivot pin in response to movement of said seat back between said support and forwardly stowed positions, respectively, to cause movement of said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

18. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 17 including a panel supported by said front and rear links for movement with said riser mechanism between said seating position, wherein said panel conceals the recess in the floor, and said stowed position, wherein said panel is disposed within the recess providing access thereto to allow said seat assembly to be stowed in the recess.

19. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 18 including a dampener extending between said lower arm of one of said front and rear links and the floor for dampening said movement of said seat assembly between said seating and stowed positions.

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20. A seat assembly for supporting an occupant above a floor, said seat assembly comprising:

a seat cushion;

front and rear links each extending between said seat cushion and the floor for  
10 allowing selective movement of said seat assembly between a seating position to support the occupant above the floor and a stowed position disposed within a recess in the floor; and

an arm extending between a cushion end pivotally coupled to said seat cushion and a link end pivotally coupled to one of said front and rear links to allow said seat cushion to be angularly tilted while in said seating position with respect to said stowed position.

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